AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A radial ply pneumatic tire assembly comprising a cured tire and a cured circumferentially extending ring, the tire comprising:

a) an annular tread, the tread having at least one circumferentially extending groove and a pair of lateral tread edges, the axial distance between the lateral tread edges defining the tread width,

b) at least one pair of reinforcing belts located radially inwardly of the tread,

c) a pair of sidewalls, each sidewall extending radially inwardly from each lateral tread edge, and

d) a tire carcass structure comprising a pair of bead cores, each bead core being located radially inwardly from each sidewall, and a carcass reinforcing structure radially inward of the reinforcing belts extending circumferentially about the tire from one of the pair of bead cores to the other one of the pair of bead cores, the carcass reinforcing structure having at least one ply, each ply having a pair of turnup ends; and

the ring being ~~separately~~ manufactured and cured separately from the cured tire and comprising a coated inextensible material, the circumferentially extending ring being placed in the at least one circumferentially extending grooves of the cured tire wherein, in the tire assembly, the ring is radially inward of the at least one pair of reinforcing belts.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The tire assembly according to claim 1, the tire further comprising:

e) an interior cavity, wherein the at least one circumferentially extending groove extends into the interior cavity by a depth D of 10-30% of the tire sectional height H.

4. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1, the tire further comprising:

e) at least a pair of fillers, each filler being located in each sidewall and extending from a location radially inward of the lateral tread edges to radially outward of the bead cores.

5. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1, wherein each turnup end of the carcass reinforcing ply passes radially inward of the bead core and extends radially outward adjacent to the carcass reinforcing ply.

6. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1 wherein the tread has at least two circumferentially extending grooves, and a circumferentially extending ring in each circumferentially extending groove, the ring in each groove being radially inward of the at least one pair of reinforcing belts.

7. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 6 wherein the tire has three sets of reinforcing belts, each of the sets of reinforcing belts being separated by one of the circumferentially extending grooves.

8. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1 wherein the circumferentially extending ring is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of thermoplastic, thermoelastomer, or plasticized elastomer.

9. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1 wherein the inextensible material of the circumferentially extending ring is selected from the group consisting of steel, carbon fiber, fiberglass, aramid, a nylon, or a polyester.

10. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1 wherein the circumferentially extending ring is comprised of reflective or fluorescent materials that are seen on the radially outer surface of the circumferentially extending ring.

11 - 15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1 wherein the circumferentially extending ring has a radially outer surface, the radially outer surface being provided with a grooving pattern.

17. (previously presented) The tire assembly of claim 1 wherein the circumferentially extending ring has a filled in U-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

The above amendments are supported by the original specification.